

# Bug in MyMIT System Allowed Sharing of Users' Information

By Jeffrey Chang  
STAFF REPORTER

MIT Admissions e-mailed about 9,500 registered users of the MyMIT admissions Web site last week to confirm that their applications were correct after discovering and correcting a problem where users could potentially access other students' applications. MIT Admissions realized in late October that under some circumstances, a user of the site could find himself or herself with the same session ID as someone else, Dean for Undergraduate Education Robert P.

Redwine said. In those circumstances, a user could see the information from someone else's registration or application. MIT was alerted to this problem by a student using the portal. "As soon as we heard, we took the portal down," Redwine said, causing the inaccessibility of the MyMIT site around Nov. 1 and the subsequent extension of the Early Action application deadline. It took a couple days, but the difficulty, a hardware configuration problem, was straightforward to fix.

"We then had to spend a few weeks trying to understand the extent of possible access to information," Redwine said. Of the total number of people who had used the portal, about 20 percent potentially could have been affected. Out of that group, only a quarter, or about 2,400, were students who had already submitted their applications.

Applicants alerted via e-mail  
"We have recently corrected a

MyMIT, Page 13

# Thirsty Ear Gets A Helping Hand

By Beckett W. Sterner  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Thirsty Ear pub will reopen this Thursday to a schedule of trivia, karaoke, and live music on Monday, Thursday, and Friday nights, and will otherwise be available to the MIT community for reservations. Thursday night will be the pub's Grand Reopening, sponsored by the Graduate Student Council. The pub, which closed last spring after it was unable to find a manager within the MIT administration, is able to reopen now that an outside, part time manager, Lance

Hathaway, has been hired to manage scheduling and the student bartender staff, said former Thirsty Ear Manager Gregory S. Pollock G. Director of Campus Dining Richard D. Berlin III said that since the pub has no kitchen facilities, it will serve food catered from Alpine Bagel in the Student Center. "I think it would probably be an abbreviated menu based on what travels well" from Alpine to Ashdown, he said. "I think one of the primary things would be ... brick oven pizza."

The pub's ability to cater alcohol

and bartend for events on- and off-campus has also been improved, he said, in order to help save student groups the hassle of hiring bartenders from outside MIT. Pub prospects look good The Thirsty's "new business model pares down our hours to the shifts in which we had the most business," a change planned to make it financially self sustainable, Pollock said. He said sustainability has been

Thirsty, Page 14

# Six Marshall, Rhodes Scholars at MIT

By Kathy Dobson  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Six MIT students were awarded scholarships to attend universities in the United Kingdom for the next two years. Virginia L. Corless '05, Brian A. Mazzeo '05, and Jessica A. Lee '05 each won Marshall Scholarships, which allow them to study at any university in the U.K. Elizabeth Masiello G, Laurel Yong-Hwa Lee '05, and Javed K. Samuel G were awarded Rhodes Scholarships to study at Oxford University. In total, 40 Marshall Scholarships and 47 North American Rhodes Scholarships were awarded this year. The scholarships each had about 900 applicants.

## Scholars to pursue interests

Corless, who plans to pursue a doctorate in astrophysics at Cambridge or Oxford, said that she was ecstatic when she heard about the scholarship. "Studying in the U.K. for a PhD is ideal for me because I'm heading in a policy, applied science direction as opposed to academia," Corless said. Her goal is to "get into the real world after I finish," possibly pursuing international science policy or consulting. Corless said she was interested in bring technology into the developing world. Jessica Lee, who plans to attend Oxford or University of Wales to study environmental conservation, said that when she found out she won the scholarship, she was

Scholars, Page 11



JINA KIM—THE TECH

Virginia L. Corless '05 and Jessica A. Lee '05 (rear, left to right) are two of this year's Marshalls Scholars. L. Yong-Hwa Lee '05 and Javed K. Samuel G (front, left to right) are two 2004 MIT Rhodes Scholars. Not present are Marshall winner Brian A. Mazzeo '05 and Rhodes winner Elizabeth Masiello G.



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

Dean R. Gibbons and Tony Rebelo change the lights around Kresge Auditorium last Tuesday, Nov. 23. In addition to the light-changing, various facilities teams performed routine maintenance around campus.

# Federal Database Tracking Student Data a Possibility

By Diana Jean Schemo  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

A proposal by the federal government to create a vast new database of enrollment records on all college and university students is raising concerns that the move will erode the privacy rights of students. Until now, universities have provided individual student information to the federal government only in connection with federally financed student aid. Otherwise, colleges and universities submit information about overall enrollment, graduation, prices and financial aid without identifying particular students. For the first time, however, colleges and universities would have to give the federal government data on all students individually, whether or not they received financial assistance, with their Social Security numbers. The bid arises from efforts in Congress and elsewhere to extend the growing emphasis on school accountability in elementary and high schools to postsecondary education. Supporters say that government oversight of individual student data will make it easier for taxpayers and policy makers to judge the quality of colleges and universities through more reliable statistics on graduation, transfers and retention. The change would also allow federal officials to track individual students as they journey through the higher education system. In recent years, increasing numbers of students have been attending more than one university, dropping out or taking longer than the traditional four years to graduate. Current reporting practices cannot capture such trends; a mobile student is recorded as a new student at each institution.

Under the proposal, the National Center for Education Statistics at the Department of Education would receive, analyze and guard the student data. In making its case for the change, the national center points to a long history of working with student information and says it has never been forced to share such data with law enforcement or other

Tracking, Page 14

## ARTS

"Alexander" is not worth the film it was developed on. The soundtrack, though, wasn't so bad.

Page 9



## Comics

Page 6

## OPINION

The comic superhero history of the Middle East.

Page 5

World & Nation .....	2
Opinion .....	4
Arts .....	9
Sports .....	16



# WORLD & NATION

## Stress and Distress May Give Your Genes Gray Hair

By Benedict Carey  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Some stressful events seem to turn a person’s hair gray overnight. Now a team of researchers has found that severe emotional distress — like that caused by divorce, the loss of a job, or caring for an ill child or parent — may speed up the aging of the body’s cells at the genetic level. The findings, being reported Tuesday, are the first to link psychological stress so directly to biological age.

The researchers found that blood cells from women who had spent many years caring for a disabled child were, genetically, about a decade older than those from peers who had much less caretaking experience. The study, which appears in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, also suggests that the perception of being stressed can add years to a person’s biological age.

Though doctors have linked chronic psychological stress to weakened immune function and an increased risk of catching colds, among other things, they are still trying to understand how tension damages or weakens tissue. The new research suggests a new way that such damage may occur and opens the possibility that the process can be reversed.

## Suicide Bomber Kills 12 in Iraq

By Robert F. Worth  
THE NEW YORK TIMES BAGHDAD, IRAQ

A suicide bomber rammed his car into a group of police officers waiting to collect their salaries on Monday morning west of Ramadi, killing 12 people and wounding many others in the latest attack on Iraq’s security forces, officials at the Interior Ministry said.

In Baghdad, two American soldiers with the 1st Cavalry Division were killed and three were wounded when a roadside bomb detonated near their convoy, military officials said. South of the capital, near the Euphrates River, a volley of mortar fire struck a Marine base on Monday afternoon, wounding 13 Marines and two civilians, military officials said.

In Najaf, the Shiite holy city south of Baghdad, American and Iraqi forces arrested the deputy governor of the province along with 30 other Iraqis and charged them with plotting to kill the American-installed governor, police officials said. The deputy governor, Ali Shaibani, was also charged with having tried to kill the city’s police chief, Ghalab Jazari, officials said.

## China Making Major Economic And Diplomatic Effort in Southeast

By Jane Perlez  
THE NEW YORK TIMES VIENTIANE, LAOS

China moved a step closer to cementing its economic and diplomatic relationships with Southeast Asia on Monday when Prime Minister Wen Jiabao signed a trade accord at a regional summit meeting that calls for eliminating tariffs on a range of agricultural and manufactured goods by 2010.

He also signed a strategic declaration that commits China to good behavior in the Southeast Asian region, including in the contentious area of the South China Sea.

Wen’s presence at the annual meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations has come to dominate the event as the 10 member nations wrestle with how to adjust their varying and often heavily protected economies with a surging China.

Wen, in his speech here, outlined his grand concept for an East Asian community that he said China wanted to play a leading role in developing. Deeper cooperation among these nations that would culminate in such a community was a “strategic choice made in the interests of China’s own development and in the common interests of the region,” he said.

# Federal Appeals Court Rules Colleges May Bar Recruiters

By Adam Liptak  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Universities may bar military recruiters from their campuses without risking the loss of federal money, the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in Philadelphia, ruled Monday.

The court ruled that educational institutions have a First Amendment right to keep military recruiters off their campuses to protest the Defense Department policy of excluding gays from military service.

The 2–1 decision relied in large part on a decision in 2000 by the U.S. Supreme Court to allow the Boy Scouts to exclude gay scoutmasters. Just as the Scouts have a First Amendment right to bar homosexuals, the appeals court said, law schools may prohibit groups that they consider discriminatory.

The 1995 law at issue in the decision, the Solomon Amendment, barred the federal government from disbursing money to colleges and universities that obstruct campus recruiting by the military. As amended and interpreted over the years, the law prohibits disbursements to all parts of a university, including its physics department and

medical school, if any of its units, like its law school, make military recruiting even a little more difficult.

Billions of dollars are at stake, and no university has been willing to defy the government. Indeed, several law schools that are members of one of the groups that sued to block the law, the Forum for Academic and Institutional Rights, have not been publicly identified. Among the institutions willing to be named are the law schools of New York University and George Washington University. The law faculties of Stanford, Georgetown and several other law schools are also in the group.

A spokesman for the Justice Department, Mark Corallo, said no decision had been made on an appeal.

“The United States continues to believe that the Solomon Amendment is constitutional,” he said. “We believe that Congress may deny federal funds to universities which discriminate and may act to protect the men and women of our armed forces in their ability to recruit Americans who wish to join them in protecting their country.”

The government can ask the full

appeals court to review the decision by the three-judge panel or ask the Supreme Court to hear the case. In either event, the government may also ask for a stay of the decision.

In the meantime, colleges and universities are free to limit military recruiters’ access to their campuses, said E. Joshua Rosenkranz, who represents the law schools in the suit.

“Now every academic institution in the country is free to follow their consciences and their nondiscrimination policies,” Rosenkranz said. “Enlightened institutions have a First Amendment right to exclude bigots. In a free society, the government cannot co-opt private institutions to issue the government’s message.”

He noted, though, that most law schools’ policies had never completely barred recruiters on campus. Most simply withheld some forms of assistance, like arranging interviews and posting notices.

The law schools’ antidiscrimination policies do not specifically focus on the military. They apply to all potential employers with an announced policy of discrimination on the basis of, among other factors, race, sex and sexual orientation.

# Gap Appearing Between Jobs, Innovation in Local Businesses

By Robert Weisman  
THE BOSTON GLOBE

A gap is emerging in Massachusetts between innovation and job creation, as the state’s high-tech workforce continues to shrink despite the growth of a robust technology infrastructure, according to a report being released Monday by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative.

Its eighth annual Index of the Massachusetts Innovation Economy says the state’s infrastructure of entrepreneurs, research and development labs, inventors, and venture capital firms may be stronger than ever. But the state has lagged in converting innovation into jobs.

One factor may be difficulty in capitalizing on the globalization trend, the report suggests. “Unfortunately,” it says, “in today’s global economy, innovations are pieces of intellectual property that are traded in an international market much like any other set of goods.”

Federally funded research grew to \$4.6 billion in 2002, the most recent year for which figures were available, up 10 percent from 1999. Patent awards to Massachusetts inventors, meanwhile, climbed 8.3 percent in 2003, compared to an 1.1 percent increase for the nation as a whole. And the Massachusetts share of venture capital investments reached 14 percent in the first half of this year, one of the highest percentages in the nation, up from 11 percent in 2003.

But the report also documents disturbing trends: Massachusetts has

lost more than 94,000 jobs since 2000 in technology sectors such as computer hardware, software, and communications. Fewer than a quarter of state workers are employed in what the collaborative calls the “innovation economy,” and the decline of jobs in high-tech sectors contributed to a 3.2 percent drop in median household income in Massachusetts last year.

Governor Mitt Romney called on businesses to take advantage of innovations to create jobs and said state government needs to create a more entrepreneurial climate. “We need to continue to work aggressively to develop new incentives, lower costs, and remove barriers for businesses across all industry sectors,” he said.

# WEATHER

## Damp December

By Nikki Prive  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

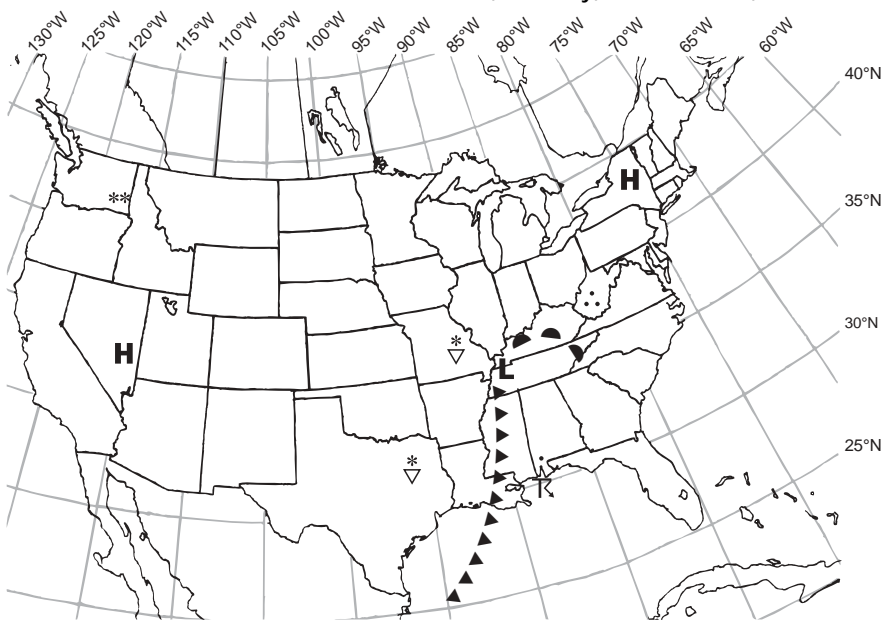
*“This is what I have heard  
at last the wind in December  
lashing the old trees with rain  
unseen rain racing along the tiles  
under the moon  
wind rising and falling  
wind with many clouds  
trees in the night wind” — W. S. Merwin*

A low pressure system currently located over the Tennessee Valley will bring clouds to Boston today and a soggy start to December tomorrow. As the low moves rapidly out to sea, conditions will improve considerably, with sunny skies for Thursday. Temperatures will remain in the mid 40s°F during the day for the duration of the week.

### Extended Forecast:

**Today:** Increasing clouds, high near 45°F (8°C).  
**Tonight:** Cloudy, low in the upper 30s°F (3°C).  
**Wednesday:** Rain developing, high around 45°F (8°C), showers diminishing overnight with lows in the upper 30s°F (3°C).  
**Thursday:** Clearing skies, high in the mid 40s°F (8°C), low near 30°F (-1°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, November 30, 2004



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
<b>H</b> High Pressure	Trough	Snow	Fog
<b>L</b> Low Pressure	Warm Front	Rain	Thunderstorm
Hurricane	Cold Front	Light	Haze
	Stationary Front	Moderate	
		Heavy	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

# Bush Nominates Kellogg CEO As New Secretary of Commerce

By Richard W. Stevenson  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

WASHINGTON

President Bush on Monday nominated Carlos M. Gutierrez, among the most prominent Hispanic business executives in the United States, to be his new commerce secretary, as the president continued with what Republicans said would be a broad overhaul of his Cabinet.

Gutierrez, 51, has been chief executive of the Kellogg Co., the cereal maker, for more than five years, and has built a reputation as an innovative and forceful business leader with broad international experience. But he has little background in public policy, leaving him largely unknown in political circles and untested by the demands of a high-profile job in Washington.

“He understands the world of business, from the first rung on the ladder to the very top,” Bush said, with Gutierrez at his side in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. “He knows exactly what it takes to help American businesses

grow and to create jobs.”

In announcing his choice, Bush continued a comprehensive reshaping of his team as he prepares for his second term. Six Cabinet secretaries have already resigned, and one person with close ties to the White House said that Republicans had been told to expect as many as half a dozen additional departures.

Tom Ridge, the homeland security secretary, is likely to step aside, but not until the White House lines up a successor, associates of Ridge said. At a time when the administration is preparing big pushes on Bush’s plans to remake Social Security and the tax code, there has been growing talk in Republican circles that the senior member of the economic team, Treasury Secretary John W. Snow, might leave in the first half of next year, if not sooner. White House officials have made no effort to discourage speculation that Norman Y. Mineta, the transportation secretary and the Cabinet’s only Democrat, will resign soon.

Gutierrez, whose nomination is

subject to Senate confirmation, would replace Donald L. Evans, a close friend and political counselor to Bush. Evans announced this month that he was leaving Washington to return home to Texas.

Assuming he is confirmed, taking his new job will entail a significant pay cut for Gutierrez. Last year he was paid \$7.4 million by Kellogg in total compensation, including salary, bonus and incentive payments. He owns or has option rights to 2 million shares of company stock. Cabinet secretaries earned an annual salary of \$175,700 this year.

The change at the Commerce Department is just one of many among the president’s economic team. N. Gregory Mankiw, the chairman of the White House’s Council of Economic Advisers, is expected to leave within months to return to his professorship at Harvard. Stephen Friedman, the former Wall Street executive who has been director of the National Economic Council for two years, announced last week that he would resign.

# Supreme Court Declines to Hear Challenge of Same-Sex Marriage

By Yvonne Abraham  
*THE BOSTON GLOBE*

The U.S. Supreme Court declined Monday to hear a challenge to same-sex marriages in Massachusetts, dealing a second setback to a group that has been trying to put a stop to those marriages since before they began in the state on May 17.

The justices were asked to overturn the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage, on the grounds that the seven justices of the state’s highest court had exceeded their authority under the U.S. Constitution and violated the principle of separation of powers.

The U.S. Supreme Court declined to consider the case, without comment. Lawyers on both sides said the court’s refusal to take the case is no indicator of where judges in the nation’s highest court stand on the issue of same-sex marriage.

Rather, legal specialists said, it reflects the court’s reluctance to wade into the matter while it is still such a fresh source of controversy nationally. It also indicates that the arguments used in this case were weak, said Eugene Volokh, a professor of law at the University of California at Los Angeles.

“There are lots of reasons the Supreme Court could refuse to hear a case,” said Volokh, who specializes in constitutional law. “However, in this case, it’s pretty clear: The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court decided that the Massachusetts Constitution mandates recognition of same-sex marriage, and the Massachusetts Constitution is the business of the Massachusetts courts. The U.S. Supreme Court will not intervene on matters that have only to do with state law.”

The court hears only about 80 of the more than 5,000 cases put before it each year.

The case was brought by the Florida-based Liberty Counsel, a nonprofit group that fights for conservative causes around the country, on behalf of Robert Largess, vice president of the Catholic Action League, and 11 Massachusetts lawmakers who oppose same-sex marriage. The chief counsel for that group vowed to fight on Monday, not just in the courts, but also for a federal constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage.

“This case is a minor skirmish in the overall issue of same-sex marriage,” said Erik Stanley, the group’s lawyer. “The Liberty Counsel is involved in more than two dozen cases across the country on

same-sex marriage, and we will continue to defend traditional marriage in those cases. The decision today underscores the need for a federal marriage amendment to define marriage as between one man and one woman.”

The federal marriage amendment, as currently worded, would nullify the Massachusetts SJC decision, said Volokh, though it is unclear what the effect of the amendment would be on those couples who have already married. Earlier this year, President Bush urged passage of the federal amendment, and since winning reelection he has vowed to help push it forward.

Monday, in response to the U.S. Supreme Court action, White House spokesman Scott McLellan said “the president remains firmly committed to moving forward on a constitutional amendment that would allow the voice of the people to be heard and involve states in this process.”

Advocates of same-sex marriage were pleased by Monday’s development, said Gary Buseck, legal director of Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, which represented the seven gay and lesbian couples who won the right to marry in Massachusetts in the November 2003 SJC ruling.

# Male Barn Swallows Become Sexier Through Notable Evolutionary Shift

By Carl Zimmer  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

Swallows are getting sexier.

Male barn swallows that have long tail feathers attract females, and European researchers have observed that over the last 20 years those feathers have become much longer.

“We’ve demonstrated quite a dramatic change in a short period of time,” said Dr. Anders Pape Moller, an evolutionary biologist at Pierre and Marie Curie University in Paris, who conducted the research with Dr. Tibor Szep of the College of Nyiregyhaza in Hungary. The findings are to be published in The Journal of Evolutionary Biology.

Experiments suggest that the males’ tails act as advertising for good genes because males must be in good health to spend the energy growing them. The females are particularly attracted by the tail’s two

outer feathers, the researchers say.

Moller, who has been documenting this preference for more than two decades, found that the outer feathers had lengthened by almost half an inch (11.4 millimeters), an increase of 10 percent, one of the biggest evolutionary shifts ever documented in a living population of wild animals. By contrast, the central tail feathers, which do not produce a reaction in females, have not changed.

Over the last 30 years, researchers have made more than 1,500 measurements of natural selection in wild populations of animals and plants. Droughts on the Galapagos Islands, for example, have favored larger beaks in finches because the surviving seeds are harder to crack. But the shift measured by Moller and Szep is greater.

Moller and Szep suspect that the agent for this is the long-term

spread of the Sahara. The barn swallows they are examining migrate from Denmark to South Africa for the winter, and then return by way of Algeria in the spring. The reduction of vegetation around the desert may mean fewer insects for the hungry swallows.

“If they get across the Sahara and there’s nothing to eat, it’s tough,” Moller said. Weaker male swallows starve; the stronger ones reach Denmark. There they pass on their genes to the next generation, including genes for longer tails.

But that explanation has prompted some skepticism.

“I am prepared to believe that the birds are probably evolving, but not that climate change is the cause, simply because there can be so much else going on,” said Dr. David Reznick, an evolutionary biologist at the University of California at Riverside.

## President Proposes New Elections To Break Political Stalemate

By Steven Lee Myers  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

KIEV, UKRAINE

President Leonid D. Kuchma on Monday proposed holding a new election to end the political crisis threatening to tear the country apart, while Ukraine’s Supreme Court heard complaints of electoral fraud over last week’s presidential election.

Kuchma’s remarks represented the collapse of what had been a united government position that Prime Minister Viktor F. Yanukovich won the Nov. 21 presidential election, despite evidence of fraud and falsification involving perhaps millions of ballots.

“If we really want to maintain peace and accord and we really want to build a law-governed democratic society, of which we have been speaking so much, then let us hold new elections,” Kuchma said in televised remarks, after a meeting with city and regional leaders at his residence outside Kiev.

Much remained unclear, including whether Kuchma intended to hold a new runoff between Yanukovich and his challenger, Viktor A. Yushchenko, which the law does not permit, or a whole new election. Yushchenko’s campaign immediately ruled out the latter.

Heading off speculation long dogging him that he intended to somehow remain in power himself, Kuchma said he did not intend to run for what would be a third term. “It must be clear,” he said. “I have had enough.”

## In The Tough Provinces, Iraqi Police Have Tough Going

By Richard A. Oppel Jr. and James Glanz  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

MOSUL, IRAQ

Iraqi police and national guard forces, whose performance is crucial to securing January elections, are foundering in the face of coordinated efforts to murder and intimidate them and their families, say American officials in the provinces facing the most violent insurgency.

For months, Iraqi recruits for both forces have been the targets of assassinations and car bombs aimed at lines of applicants as well as police stations. On Monday morning, a suicide bomber rammed a car into a group of police officers waiting to collect their salaries west of Ramadi, killing 12 people, Interior Ministry officials said.

While Bush administration officials say the training is progressing and there have been instances in which the Iraqis have proved tactically useful and fought bravely, local American commanders and security officials say both Iraqi forces are riddled with problems.

In the most violent provinces, they say, the Iraqis are so intimidated that many are reluctant to show up and do not tell their families where they work, have yet to receive adequate training or weapons, present a danger to American troops they fight alongside, and are unreliable either because of corruption, desertion, or infiltration.

Given the weak performance of Iraqi forces, any major withdrawal of American troops for at least a decade would invite chaos, a senior official at the Interior Ministry, whose name could not be used, said in an interview last week.

## Defense of Medical Marijuana Appears to Falter

By Linda Greenhouse  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

WASHINGTON

The effort by advocates of the medical use of marijuana to link their cause to the Supreme Court’s federalism revolution appeared headed for failure at the court on Monday.

During a lively argument, the justices expressed little inclination to view drug policy as an issue of states’ rights by which California and other states that have adopted “compassionate use” marijuana measures can displace federal regulation of homegrown marijuana distributed to patients without charge and without crossing state lines.

The closely watched case, which drew a crowd to the court, is an appeal by the Bush administration of a ruling last December by the federal appeals court in California that the federal Controlled Substances Act was “likely unconstitutional” as applied to two women who used marijuana under their doctors’ care within the terms of Proposition 215, California’s Compassionate Use Act, adopted by the voters in 1996.

Nine other states have adopted similar measures that permit people with chronic pain or illnesses like cancer and AIDS to use marijuana under a doctor’s supervision.

## Reeling Merck Offers Executives a Bonus Deal

By Alex Berenson  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

With its stock plunging and its ability to thrive as an independent company uncertain, the drug giant Merck has adopted a plan that will give its top executives for big bonuses if the company is taken over.

Merck has been reeling since it withdrew its arthritis treatment Vioxx from the market on Sept. 30 after acknowledging that the drug can cause heart attacks. On Monday, Merck said in a federal securities filing that its board had decided to give its 230 most senior managers the opportunity for a one-time payment of up to three years of salary and bonus if another company bought Merck — or merely bought more than 20 percent of its shares. Any executive who was fired or resigned for good cause would receive the payment.

Merck has said that it is committed to remaining independent, and a spokeswoman repeated that position on Monday. But the plan, which the board adopted last Tuesday, is the first formal acknowledgment that Merck is now so weakened that it may be vulnerable to a takeover.

Many other big companies have so-called golden parachute plans to protect top tiers of executives in the event of takeovers and to keep them from leaving if a takeover is looming. But experts on corporate governance said Merck’s decision to adopt such a plan was particularly ill timed. The board is rewarding its top executives for its problems with Vioxx and the company’s inability to bring new drugs to market, critics said.



OPINION



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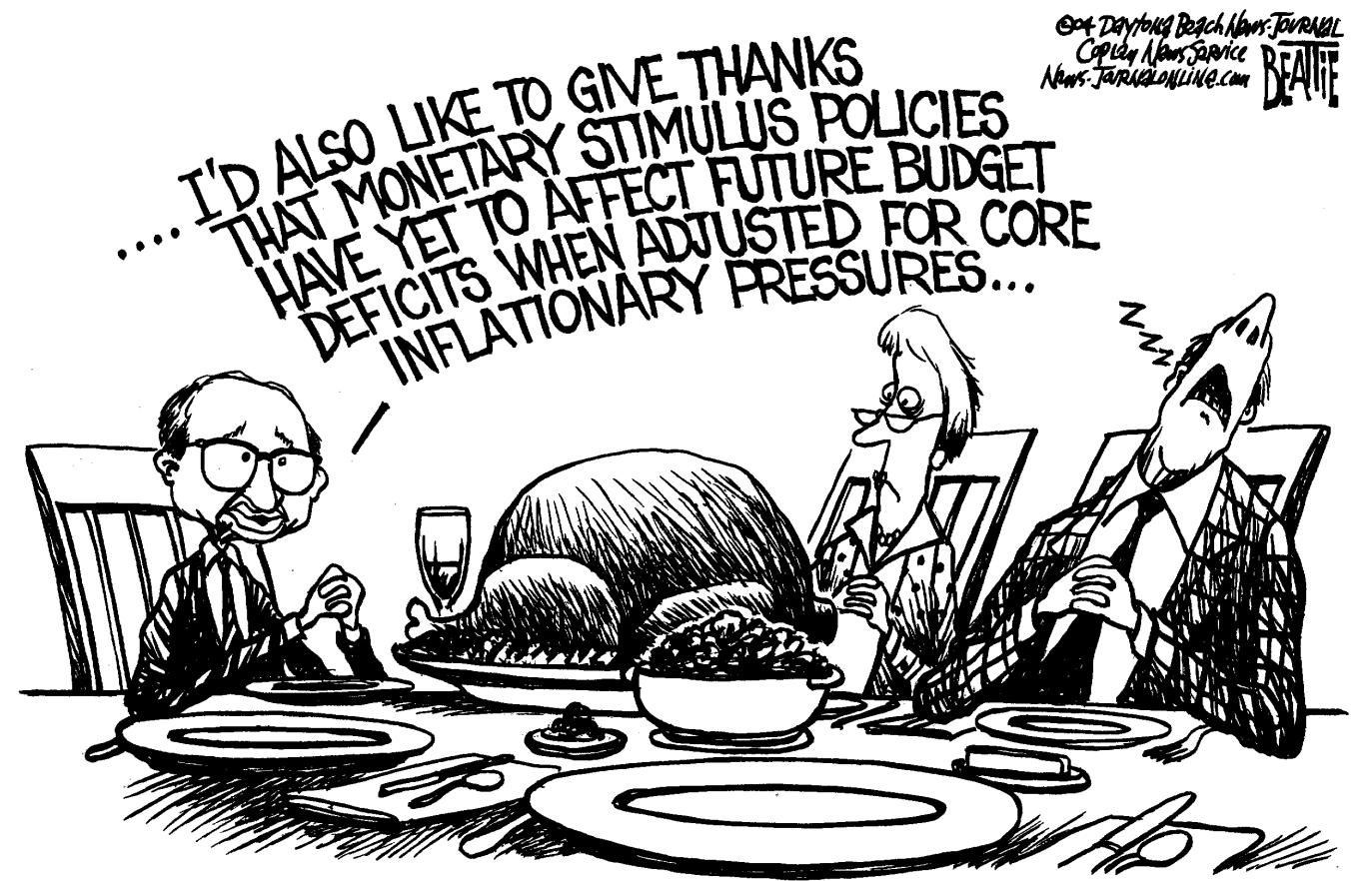
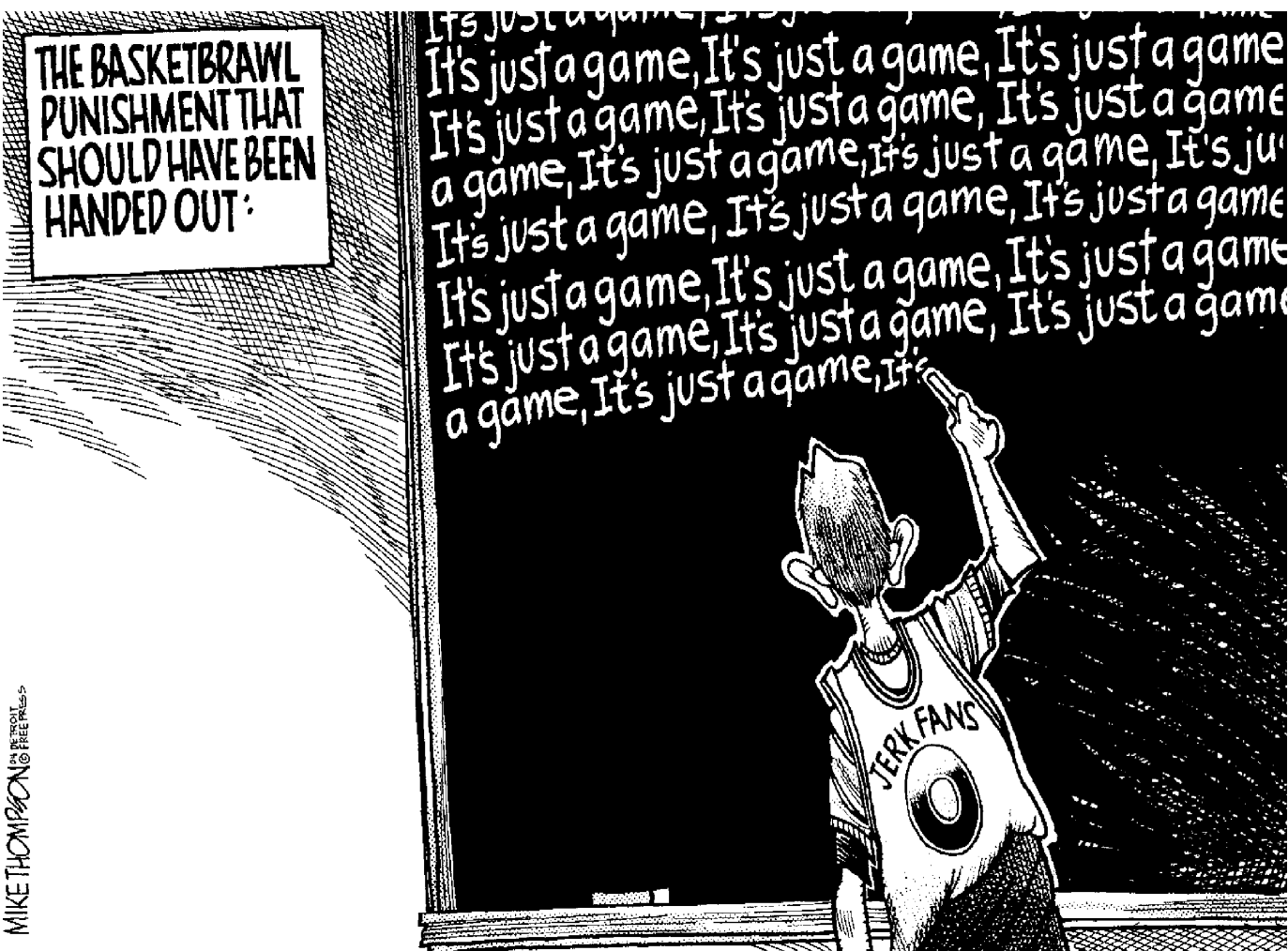
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Errata

A Nov. 23 news article ["UA Affirms Due Process Right"] incorrectly gave the vote on Undergraduate Association bill 36 UAS5.4 as 20–6–4 instead of the correct 20–0–4. Also, the article misstated Harel M. Williams' year: It is '05, not '04.

A Nov. 19 news article ["Christopher Child New IFC President for 2005"] did not give the new Interfraternity Council Program Development Chair's full name, Timothy D. Pennington '06, in the article. Also, the article incorrectly stated that new Interfraternity Council officials Jordan K. Fabyanske '06 and Pennington would create a Greek convention on leadership. The program, the Annual Greek Leadership Convention, was created last year and Fabyanske and Pennington will work on continuing it next year.

A Nov. 23 news article ["Campaign for MIT" Raises \$2B Mostly From Individual Donors"] should have given Barbara G. Stowe's title as vice-president for resource development, not research development.



# Captain America and The War on Terror

Ruth Miller

Comic books have been examined, psycho-analyzed, and dissected for years. It was only a matter of time before someone used comic books to examine the War on Terror.

This past weekend, I settled down for a long winter’s tool and ended up reading for my foreign policy class. The tryptophan must have been working, because I started making the connection between comic books and the War on Terror. I realize this sounds ridiculous, but bear with me.

One common theme in comic books is the notion of a hero creating a villain, or vice versa. The Joker killed Bruce Wayne’s parents, driving him to a life of crime-fighting, while Batman dropped the Joker in a vat of chemicals, driving him further into a life of unrestrained villainy. Wolverine, murderous even before gaining his adamantium claws, turned his rage against his creators. For more examples, look at the Punisher, Daredevil, or the soon to be released Elektra feature film.

The second part of this comparison consists of a brief history of U.S. engagement in the Middle East. For the sake of continuity, I will present this history in the spirit of a serialized comic adventure.

In the shadows of the second great World War, the Allies and the Soviets were vying for trade rights in the Middle East. Efforts escalated when oil, the precious resource so crucial to powering modern warfare, was discovered in the region. Eager to exert control on the area, the U.S. aided in a number of coups against Socialist governments and played a powerful, if discrete, role in the stabilization of the region, while European allies supplied the ground forces to maintain peace.

Oil flowed freely and there was peace, until Britain declared it was withdrawing its troops from the area in 1971 (the same year

Wolverine was introduced to the X-Men.) Unable to withdraw armed forces from the mire of Vietnam, the U.S. decided to continue its reliance on proxies to police the region. What nations did the U.S. look to for cooperation? Iran and Saudi Arabia. Iran and Saudi Arabia even got a superhero team name: the “Twin Pillars.” They were given special access to U.S. planes and missiles, as well as

patience in political misdeeds, in exchange for three goals, as set down by the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff:

To assure continuous access to petroleum resources.

To preserve the balance of power in the Middle East.

To support Israel.

The Twin Pillars satisfied the U.S. until 1980, as revolution in Iran toppled the pro-Western government. Desperate to retain the balance of power, the

U.S. turned to a new political leader in the Middle East — Saddam Hussein. Hussein, fearing revolution in his own country, and lured by the spoils of Iran, attempted an invasion of Iran. The attempt was so pitiful, and the threat of an Iranian victory was so dire, that the U.S. intervened on behalf of Iraq. Paris, which was already heavily immersed in trade with Iraq, was more than happy to oblige the U.S. request for support of Iraq. The U.S. also turned a blind eye to many of Iraq’s wrongdoings, including the poorly defended removal of Iraq from the list of terrorism-supporting states. Iraq and the U.S. were victorious in defeating Iran, and the remainder of the decade was spent in a tolerant alliance. Hussein was a vocal supporter of Israel. The U.S. received a deep discount on

Iraqi oil. The two nations did a fair amount of trade. All the while, Hussein’s suspicions of the U.S. grew, as well as, with U.S. aid, his military capabilities.

With the threat of Iran addressed, other nations in the region began to get uncomfortable. One virulent speech in April of 1990 confirmed people’s worst suspicions, as Hussein called for the Arab world to band together to defend itself from America and Israel. Driven by jealousy, or madness, Hussein had grown tired of American-Israeli alliances, and was determined to undermine Israel. The first step in his evil plan: invade Kuwait, Iraq’s wealthy neighbor country.

Today, that invasion is referred to as part of the first Gulf War. The U.S. and its league of allies defended Kuwait, as Hussein was forced to withdraw his forces to defend his own power in Iraq. The allies were successful, but a new enemy had been cemented in the Middle East — one that would have to be addressed eventually.

The purpose of our comparison was to analyze, and analyze we must. The same questions we ask ourselves about comic books characters, we must ask ourselves here.

In this context, is the U.S. a true hero or an anti-hero? The classic illustration of a hero, Superman hands the bad guys over to the police for their day in court. An anti-hero,

Wolverine has been known to murder criminals; serving as his own judge, jury, and executioner.

Was the U.S. just in its actions during the 80s that led to the villainization of Hussein? Was Batman just for throwing the Joker in chemicals? Or was this the result of good intentions, such as Spider-man keeping secret the identity of the Green Goblin Harry Osborne?

Regardless of the history, today Hussein is behind bars. The defenders of truth, justice, and the American way have succeeded... at least until next week.

On a side note, Captain America was copied from Pep Comic’s The Shield.

*Iran and Saudi Arabia even got a superhero team name: the “Twin Pillars.” They were given special access to U.S. planes and missiles, as well as patience in political misdeeds, in exchange for oil, security and supporting Israel.*

*Was the U.S. just in its actions during the 80s that led to the villainization of Hussein? Was Batman just for throwing the Joker in chemicals?*

# America’s Public Morality Play

Vivek Rao

Heathens are hijacking the moral direction of the United States. Don’t believe me? Well, let’s take a look at the evidence.

The NFL’s premier wide receiver, Terrell Owens of the Philadelphia Eagles, shamelessly participated in an ABC-made promotional clip that featured an apparently nude Nicolette Sheridan leaping into Owens’s arms, all in a weaselly attempt to hype up the hit show *Desperate Housewives*.

Meanwhile, in rural Texas, the Liberty Legal Institute, an impressively vigilant Christian legal group, discovered an unseemly tradition. Apparently, students in a small town of Spurger have long been participating in “TWIRP Day,” the acronym standing for “The Woman is Requested to Pay.” Cross-dressing lies at the heart of the tradition, raising a red flag to some who fear it might promote homosexuality.

To make matters worse, poker is rising in popularity, boosted immensely by televised professional tournaments and celebrity matchups. Such games of chance could certainly turn into a national menace.

But fear not, steps are being taken to prevent such devilish developments. Public outrage, media scrutiny, and NFL pressure convinced both Owens and ABC to offer apologies. TWIRP Day in Spurger, Texas has been replaced by Camo Day, on which students dress up in military camouflage to reaffirm not only their patriotism but also their heterosexuality. Numerous watchdog organizations are taking a deep look at the poker craze. And for general censoring purposes, we have the honorable Michael Powell heading up the now vicious FCC.

The purpose here is not to elevate one set of moral values over another, nor to trivialize the concerns of one segment of the population while emphasizing those of another. But bringing specific moral values, no matter what they may be, into public and political arenas is a dangerous practice, especially in a country that claims to ensure individual freedoms.

Fundamentally, moral values are a private and personal concept, and judging the values of others as insignificant or misplaced is foolish, at best.

Sadly, we Americans don’t seem to care. Our intentions are in the right place. We care about future generations, and certainly, raising children fundamentally involves moral values, but there is a growing reliance on politicians, celebrities, and other public figures to set the moral course of our nation. This is a dangerous trend for two key reasons.

First, there is the issue of marginalization and trivialization. Realistically, a functional society will always witness some morality-based decisions by public organizations such as the FCC or the town officials in Spurger, Texas. But by bringing moral issues into the public domain, there is an inherent polarization effect. Any issue worth its salt leads to the development of factions on alternate sides of a debate. Think of abortion, or gay marriage, or censorship, or just about any other moral issue.

Now, if various censorship and morality issues are important enough to merit a public resolution or decisions, then they also merit reasonable debate. Unfortunately, more often than not, most people are too wedded to their moral values to be able to partake in any sort of productive discourse on the subject. Instead, we generate situations where people start to believe that their point of view is absolutely superior to the opposing one, leading to a level of disdain for fellow citizens that is as unproductive as it is unwarranted. While we believe that we live in a country that fosters freedoms and individuality (and

no doubt, our country is better than most), the public nature of our holier-than-thou proclamations on moral issues often serves to marginalize people from minority camps on a local, regional, or national level.

Second and more importantly, there is the matter of effectiveness. We hear and see evidence that moral values are an important priority for most Americans. We vote for politicians who share our values and demand other public figures to uphold fairly stringent moral standards that coincide with our own. But at the same time, there are numerous studies that show that parents often fail to devote enough time and energy to discussing moral issues with their children. The only reasonable conclusion to be drawn is that people,

parents in particular, are becoming increasingly reliant on the pervasive moral climate of the day to dictate the moral upbringing of the nation’s youth.

Maybe it’s time that people stopped worrying about society’s moral values and started paying more attention to their own homes. Strong moral values are fostered in children not by politicians or athletes or musicians or actresses, but by parents. We’re fortunate enough to live in a nation that allows us a significant degree of individual freedom. Rather than trying to dictate a public moral climate that gels with their own while inevitably alienating others’, parents should try to focus their attentions on developing in their children the tools requisite for evaluating and understanding complex moral issues. Maybe then future generations will be better equipped to handle differences of opinion on issues of morality than we are today.

*Bringing specific moral values, no matter what they may be, into public and political arenas is a dangerous practice, especially in a country that claims to ensure individual freedoms. Fundamentally, moral values are a private and personal concept.*



Trio

Learn about the TRIO characters: [ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE](http://ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE)

by Emezie Okorafor

Wow. These gummy bears are good. REALLY good. I had forgotten how much joy something so simple could add to life...

But now I remember.

Maybe I have been searching for life's meaning the wrong way... All this time, I've been hoping for something magnificent to find me and give me reason to carry on...

But, in doing so, I've overlooked all the beautiful little things that try so hard to make life a bit sweeter...

Maybe Rick was right, after all. Maybe gummy bears really ARE the meaning of life. Or at least, one piece of the puzzle...

Heh. I guess Rick is a lot wiser than I give him credit for...he's really not as dumb as he looks...

Hey, Kit! I kinda locked myself outta my apartment...mind if I stay with you 'til Bobby gets back?

I'm going to go get my baseball bat. Don't be here when I return.

Red (states) vs. Bloux III  
Assault on the Control Room

by Brian Loux

Ok! Approaching LZ! Cover my approach on the left + flank! We drop in 5!

Move it, Mannes! The corps ain't payin' us by the hour!

So why have we let our imbalanced friend drive us to DC, crash the white House gate, and mount an assault...

With nothing but a NERF gun?

Because he needs a whuppin only the Secret service can deliver

Splatform

by James Biggs



Marketers are now working on exciting new products targeted to the needs of America's fresh crop of veterans.

F Plus

By Dan P. Corson  
Solution, page 12

**ACROSS**

1 Canadian pop artist  
Gryner

4 Flirt with

8 Dispersal unit

13 BSO Trombonist  
Douglas

14 Greek halls

15 Applet tag

16 Hostname suffix

17 Derision

18 Make tabula rasae

19 Take the good with the bad?

22 Bargain books

23 Hip-hop portal website co.

24 Start WWII

28 Lamina

30 Michigan tourism spot?

32 Vertex

34 Kidman or Gibson, e.g.

35 Intel competitor

38 Physique

39 "Million Bucks" band

40 Saturated suffix

41 Hell ender

43 Shiftless

45 Went with *Waterworld*?

48 Big boat

52 Single-voice songs

53 AIM-9 Sidewinder, e.g.

54 Tell a dog to leave

55 Breezy breakups?

60 G and C, e.g.

63 Booty hiding-place

64 *biscuit*

65 Insect-eating bird

66 Long-necked wading bird

67 Jargon suffix

68 Napped fabric

69 Dasher and pals

70 Protected co.

**DOWN**

1 View

2 Sister to Stheno and Euryale

3 Timid

4 Great in quantity

5 Lily family plant

6 Many clowns

7 Obi-Wan of *Star Wars*

8 Meas. transmittance

9 *Meet the* \_\_\_\_\_

10 Mouths

11 FSILG GRTs

12 Tax finish

14 Juneau clock std.

20 Paradise

21 Actor Reagan

25 Dipper analogue in constellation names

26 \_\_\_\_\_ite glutamate receptor

27 Sabre and foil alternative

29 Ceremonial garments

30 National agent

31 \_\_\_\_\_craft of pop punk

33 Mode off scale degree two

35 Barks

36 No bueno

37 Two hydroxyl compound

39 Abet

42 Spruced

44 Wicked witch direction

46 Moved rapidly

47 Gentoo apt-get

49 Carving implement

50 I swear!

51 Ready for *Animal House* reenactment

56 One for whom a suit is vicariously brought, in legalese

57 Traditional belief

58 At some time

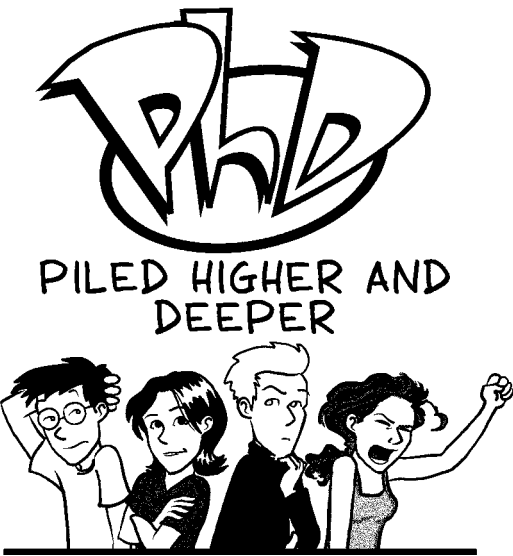
59 Hostname suffix

60 MIT cops

61 100 bani, in Romania

62 Female sheep

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60	61	62			63				64		
65					66				67		
68					69				70		



FoxTrot by Bill Amend

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

KRT Crossword

Solution, page 12

- ACROSS**

1 \_\_\_ mater

5 Ready and willing partner

9 Singer Petula

14 \_\_\_ off (angry)

15 Diving bird with a laughlike cry

16 Eagles' home

17 Roundish shape

18 Joe Orton play

19 Spoke and spoke

20 Like "country club" prisons

23 Saloon

24 Remarkable times

25 NASA partner

26 Even one

29 Nothing at all

31 Shout to surprise

33 Fates

37 Left at sea

41 Standard precautions

44 Nothing more than

45 Cone-shaped paper hat

46 Mexicali Mrs.

49 650

50 Promos

51 So that's it!

54 Iowa State city

57 Mammal's triplets?

59 Weight restriction

65 Singer Baker

66 Take off quickly

67 Vegetable oil spread

68 Sharpened

69 Fencer's tool

70 Skating area

71 Rho-tau link

72 Exploit

73 European defense assn.

**DOWN**

1 Particle

2 Son of Leah

3 Stingy

4 Improvise

5 Attractive

6 Floating barrier

7 Not tight

8 Computer key

9 Tenor Enrico

10 Goneril's father

11 Golfer Palmer

12 Unrestrained outbreaks

13 African nation

21 Craze

22 Taxi

26 Actor West

27 Actress Campbell

28 Belgian river

30 Fibbed

32 Numbered musical piece

34 Very pronounced

35 Outback runner

36 Transmit

38 Black-and-white whale

39 Enjoy a book

40 Dosage amts.

42 Admitted to a group

43 Civil Rights movement town

47 Hampton Inn rival

48 \_\_\_ Darya

51 Delhi nannies

52 Capital of Vietnam

53 Cutting down

55 Fix firmly

56 Purview

58 Contempt

60 List element

61 On the quiet side

62 Pieces of pelvises

63 Revivalist's workplace

64 Lennon's Ono

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# **MIT \$50K**

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# ARTS

FILM REVIEW ➤

## ‘Alexander’ the Appalling Elision Through Exposition Takes Away All The Fun

By Philip Burrowes

*Alexander*  
Written by Oliver Stone, Christopher Kyle, Laeta Kalogridis  
Directed by Oliver Stone  
Starring Colin Farrell, Val Kilmer, Angelina Jolie, Christopher Plummer, Jared Leto, Rosario Dawson  
Warner Brothers  
Rated R

Alexander” is more than an unentertaining movie. The sheer degree of its impotence makes a mockery out of everyone involved. If it were simply poorly shot, shoddily produced, amateurishly acted, or ineloquently written, we could pronounce it one in a long line of low-quality Hollywood bombs and move on with our lives. Somehow, it is none of these, and yet watching it is to subject yourself to a worse fate than a film which contained all of them.

That Alexander is a box-office flop is no surprise. Earlier this year, “Troy” and “King Arthur” similarly failed to capture the imagination of the general public. What differentiates Alexander is the pretense of its creation. Alexander is not a war film; there are only two battles in the movie’s three-plus hours. At times it looked like a throwback to the spectacle-driven drama of “Cleopatra,” but it is too earnest to maintain that level of pomp for too long. Rather, Alexander is a character study, an attempt to unravel just what could have motivated a man of heralded but ultimately marginalized Macedonian stock not only to conquer those far greater regarded than he, but to do so with such relative benevolence.

Schoolchildren are taught that Alexander’s (Colin Farrell) rare constitution is a byproduct of his father King Philip’s (Val Kilmer) deci-

sion to have him tutored by Aristotle (Christopher Plummer). Under this interpretation, Alexander was a manifestation of Plato’s philosopher-king. The film takes an entirely different bent, however. Philip is depicted as a drunken brute and Aristotle a Hellenocentric racist, successfully undoing our superficial understanding.

But the movie’s explanation for Alexander’s megalomania is just as simple: he’s a momma’s boy. Philip thinks glory comes from suffering while his wife Olympias (Angelina Jolie) believes Alexander is destined for it. The ideologies of king and queen are openly contrasted enough times that we wish they’d just stop arguing. Using movie magic, the story skips ahead and Alexander is king, but even then dead Philip’s legacy lingers on. Alexander’s trek through Asia becomes a quest to best the mythological heroes who his father told him achieved only tragedy in the end. Alexander defends his ambition continuously by saying he is greater than his father. Surely there is something more intriguing about his character than fear of living in the shadow of history.

During production, much ado was made of the homoerotic element of the film, leading Farrell to deny that the picture was “gay.” Alexander and his best friend Hephaistion (Jared Leto) have an ambiguously romantic relationship. They compare themselves to Achilles and Patroclus, but we never see any consummation. In total there are only two man-on-man kisses in the whole movie, and one is really the kiss of death. Even when Alexander takes the Bactrian Roxane (Rosario Dawson) as a bride — openly stealing yet another well-known Greek plot: it’s because she reminds him of his mother — the conflict between his betrothed and his love flares up occasionally but never achieves anything.

By the time Alexander reaches the end of



WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Colin Farrell is Alexander the Great in the movie flop “Alexander.”

his Indian campaign, an attempt is made to connect Hephaistion’s death to Alexander’s eventual, early demise. This is undermined, however, by a parallel juxtaposition of his hallucinations to bacchanal-fostered alcoholism and an explanation of his death as a poisoning by his weary inner circle. Rather than attempt to tie in his distorted sense of reality to his imperial designs, whether as affecter or effect, the former is thus painted as exogenous. Such is a cheap plot device, not drama.

Ultimately, this is the greatest fault of the story, not the tedium of talking heads nor the excessive presence of ancillary characters. None of these would be possible without the presence of an omniscient narrator. It is the framing device of Ptolemy (Anthony Hopkins) retelling the story of Alexander that enables the writers to pick and choose what to show. Don’t want to shoot Alexander consolidating his power base after his father’s death? Just say he did it. How about the expansion of the empire following the failure of Alexander’s military plan against the Persians? Tell us the Persian army was defeated and we’ll believe you. Can’t think of a way to finish the film?

Keep rambling instead of ending at his death.

Ptolemy does something worse than leave all the best parts of the story. He periodically ruptures the plot’s progression, putting the focus on himself. Even if you understand the historical significance of the Ptolemaic dynasty to the Alexandrian legacy, you will not care. To understand how unwanted his intrusions are, imagine a very bad movie. Now imagine someone describing this movie to you verbatim, without any irony or criticism. You will have imagined the agony of Ptolemy.

Once he’s done eulogizing Alexander and the film cuts to some aquiline imagery that you forgot was important two hours ago, you’ll want to tell yourself there was a point, that there was a grander meaning that you were just too simple to grasp. Maybe it was a metaphor of America’s advance into Iraq. Perhaps it’s telling us not to aspire for greatness, because there is always a price. If it’s really an action-starved exploration of history’s greatest military strategist, an attempt at “JFK”-style revisionism of an uncontroversial period of ancient history, then you just wasted three hours of your life.

CD REVIEW

## Too Bad the Movie Sucked Vangelis’ ‘Alexander’ Film Score Unjustly Doomed to Irrelevance

By Kevin Der  
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR  
*Alexander Original Motion Picture Soundtrack*  
Composed by Vangelis  
Sony Classical  
Released Nov. 9

The epic film set in ancient times has always been an opportunity for a grand and memorable film score. An example of film music that has both stood the test of time as great music and provided grand proportions to a large-scale motion picture is Miklos Rosza’s composition for “Ben-Hur.” In the last several years, the scores for epics have been generally lackluster — Hans Zimmer’s popular “Gladiator” is the most overrated score in the last five years, and James Horner’s “Troy” proved yet again that the man cannot compose without reusing entire motifs and passages from his own work. With “Alexander,” composer Vangelis attempts to restore some glory to the epic score.

Directed by Oliver Stone, Alexander examines the life of Alexander the Great, showing us his victories and defeats, both on and off the battlefield. Unfortunately, the film is easily the worst this year — a three-hour convoluted mess of plotless, poorly acted garbage that is less watchable than a randomly assembled montage of “Battlefield Earth” clips played backwards. That this is from the same director who made “Platoon” is shocking. None of this is the fault of the music, though.

Stone chose Vangelis (aka Evangelos Papathanassiou), a Greek composer, for the film score. Vangelis, best known for his 1981 Oscar-winning score for “Chariots of Fire,” accepted the project because he considered it a part of his heritage. Vangelis regularly composes with a combination of electronic instruments and symphony orchestra.

Vangelis’ style of using synth has been hit-or-miss in the past. It is distracting in “1492 — Conquest of Paradise,” a film that chronicles the journey of Columbus. On the other hand, it works incredibly well in “Blade Runner,” which I consider to be Vangelis’ most beautiful work. “Rachel’s Song” and “Love Theme”

are two tracks from that soundtrack which use synth almost entirely, with a gorgeous result.

The use of electronics for Alexander is largely successful, surprisingly. Vangelis’ use of synth is primarily for the creation of sustained, singing harmonies in situations of majesty or beauty. He does not employ synth for the purpose of generating rhythmic, action-driven underscore. The score for Alexander is not heavily thematic, but the musical statement for Alexander’s character uses synth extensively. It is first heard in “Young Alexander,” which scores child Alexander’s successful ride of a wild horse across a grassy plain. It begins a few synthed notes recalling the titles from “Blade Runner,” followed by strings and wordless choir in moderate tempo, constantly leaping intervals upward. The theme then swells in grandeur as synth resembling a blend of keyboard and winds augments the sound in a marvelous cadential fashion. It is quite a good cue, which is heard a number of times accompanying moments of victory.

Electronics are also well used in “Roxane’s Veil,” during Alexander’s wedding ceremony. Throaty synthed winds establish harmonies while low sliding bass notes punctuate the rhythm and violins execute a lovely melody in harmonic minor. Later in the track, a wordless male choir answers the winds, creating a sense of holiness and gravity until the high strings return for a beautiful restatement.

Though Vangelis offers a fresh sound by these cues and others, much of the music recalls his past work, and even sounds generic at times. A listener may recall any number of cues from “Lord of the Rings,” a far superior score, when hearing the underscore for the battle scenes.

While Vangelis is able to capture the hypnosis of a seductive dance or the powerful implication of a young boy’s first gallop on his future warhorse in musical terms, he does not fully convey the martial grandeur of Alexander’s battlefield victories. Given the utter failure that this film is, Vangelis’ score is unlikely to be widely heard. This is unfortunate, because it is a valid demonstration of the composer’s abilities. The soundtrack has some beautiful cues written for an unfortunately truly terrible movie.

CD REVIEW

## Classic ‘Star Wars’ Repackaged Another Way to Hear John Williams

By Kevin Der  
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR  
*Star Wars Trilogy Original Soundtracks*  
Composed by John Williams  
Re-released by Sony Classical

The last of the “Star Wars” prequel films will be released next May, to the disappointment of some and the relief of others. Hardcore Star Wars fans have been divided ever since the first prequel film was released, some hailing it as worthy of the original trilogy, and others finding it absolutely unwatchable. The latter group has cited the title of Episode II as “Attack of the Clowns” and noted that the title of Episode III is abbreviated R.O.T.S. — as in the decay of a formerly glorious saga.

There is undoubtedly something that all of them agree upon, however, which is the power and necessity of John Williams’ scores for the Star Wars movies. As an exercise, try to watch the opening title crawl of “Episode IV: A New Hope” with the volume muted. The difference is staggering. Without music, every single moment in these films would be lackluster, from Luke’s swing across the Death Star chasm to the Millennium Falcon’s swerving forays into the asteroid field.


Sony Classical, which released Williams’ scores for the first two prequel films, recently re-released the complete scores for the original trilogy films. The albums represent all the music that is heard on the newest versions of the movies which came out on DVD not long ago. Described as “remastered” discs, this set used Sony’s Direct Stream Digital technology to transfer the audio from the mastered tapes

to CD, apparently maintaining the quality of the music.

This release of the scores is actually a near duplicate of RCA’s release of the exact same music, which came out in 1997 in parallel with the theatrical release of the Special Edition version of the trilogy. In fact, the track titles and durations are identical to those on RCA release, so exactly the same musical content can be found on both releases. There are no new alternate cues to offer soundtrack collectors. While I personally like the sound of this newer set, the difference is hardly noticeable, and I am not even sure that the quality is any better than that of prior releases.

The difference between the albums, then, is the packaging and assorted extra features of this release. This six CD set, two for each film score, has attractive new artwork in the style of the DVD’s and some other minor extras such as screen savers. A most glaring omission of this re-release, however, is the complete lack of liner notes. The RCA set had wonderful in-depth score analyses and assorted facts about the recording and production of the original soundtracks, but no description of the scores or the composer can be found on this release.

I believe that any music collection must include these scores, so if you do not already own them, this re-release is a good choice. For those who already own the RCA set, though, this set does not offer anything substantial except completeness from a collector’s point of view. Had Sony released the set on Super Audio CD format (SACD), then it would have been a completely different story.



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# Studying in UK Offers Change In Culture for Graduate Degree

Scholars, from Page 1

“shocked, really, because I didn’t think I had a chance.”

Lee has been an active member of environmental groups at MIT, and she said she hopes her studies overseas will help her “better understand how to protect the environment.” She eventually hopes to get a Ph.D. in marine science, microbiology, or biochemistry.

Mazzeo said he was “bouncing off the walls” when he heard he won a Marshall scholarship. “It is one of those things that doesn’t quite hit you for a while,” he said. Mazzeo plans to study thin-film electro-materials. His current undergraduate research with Professor Akintunde I. Akinwande in the Electrical Engineering Department involves modeling of organic based semi-conducting devices.

Mazzeo said that his eventual goal is to become a professional researcher in academia or industry.

Samuel, who will use his Rhodes scholarship to pursue a M.S. in mathematical modeling and scientific computing at Oxford, said he was surprised, but “happy I was able to achieve that.”

L. Yong-Hwa Lee, who plans to study tropical medicine and infectious diseases, said that the Oxford program will allow her to interact with patients from tropical countries

such as Kenya and Thailand. She plans to study either cerebral malaria, or type II HIV, which would combine her two majors, Course IX (Brain and Cognitive Sciences) and Course VII (Biology).

Lee became interested in diseases in the developing world during an IAP trip to Honduras her sophomore year. “Infectious diseases are probably the most important issues there,” she said, since “they can affect a large population in a short amount of time.” After spending two years at Oxford, Lee plans to come back to the U.S. to go to medical school.

Masiello, a graduate student in Engineering Systems Division, plans to study information technology at the Oxford Internet Institute. She is interested in privacy on the Internet and the societal implications of technology and the Internet. She said that Oxford’s program takes a “more sociological approach” and she hopes to learn from a different perspective.

“Oxford has got so much diversity,” she said. There is “a lot to be learned by just being there.” Though Masiello does not know what she wants to do directly after her studies in the U.K., she said she eventually wants to go into public service.

In addition to pursuing their studies, the Rhodes and Marshall scholars act as “representatives of

our country, ambassadors to the U.K.,” said Professor Lin Hobbs, chair of the MIT Foreign Scholarships Committee, who was a Marshall Scholar from 1966 to 1969.

### U.K. offers diversity, culture

Many of the scholars are excited to experience a new culture and pursue their extra-curricular activities in the U.K.

“I’m excited to see something new, to live in a new place,” said Jessica Lee.

“Opera is one of my favorites,” said Yong-Hwa Lee, and she is excited to visit the Royal Opera House.

“I’m also very excited about rowing at Oxford,” Lee added.

Samuel is also excited about the U.K. culture. “My entire education before MIT was based on a British system,” said Samuel, who is from St. Lucia in the Caribbean. In addition to his studies, Samuel looks forward to following some U.K. sports. “It will be great to have more people to discuss cricket with.”

“We would love more students to apply for these,” said Hobbs. The application processes for Marshall and Rhodes include four and eight recommendations, one and two interviews, and one and two essays, respectively. The minimum GPA is 4.7.



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Easter 1987, Age 5



Easter 1988, Age 6



Easter 1989, Age 7



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### Solution to KRT Crossword

from page 7


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T	E	E	D		L	O	O	N		A	E	R	I	E
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# Apps Okay After MyMIT Bug

MyMIT, from Page 1

hardware configuration problem that may have allowed other registrants access to your account and the information in it," the e-mail sent to applicants stated. "MIT wants to be 100% confident that all information collected by the MyMIT platform is intact and correct."

The e-mail asked all users to log into their account and make sure their information was correct. The e-mail also noted that credit card information was not stored on MyMIT's servers and could not have been accessed by others.

"I just got an e-mail telling me to double-check everything in my application... I had to fill out a very brief form online on whether my stuff was okay or not," said applicant Katie J. Rahlin. "Nothing happened to my application," Rahlin said, "but I was kind of surprised,

considering it's MIT."

"The portal was set up in early September," said Redwine. "As I understand it, a number of steps in optimization and testing of the portal occurred prior to it going live. In the process of doing that, a configuration was set up in one hardware device to try to increase the speed of the system" in handling traffic. It was this configuration that allowed the duplicate session IDs to occur, he said.

### No major damage reported

MIT examined a few logs from users' sessions in which another student's information had been visible. The system would "pop up someone else's session," Redwine said, but in the logs that were checked, "everyone we saw just closed it."

As of Monday afternoon, MIT had heard back from about 1,800 of the 2,400 students who had submit-

ted applications and potentially could have been affected. Letters were mailed to the remaining 600 on Monday to try to confirm all their information. "We want to be sure everything's okay before making [admissions] decisions," Redwine said.

"In almost all cases, [the students] have said their information looks fine. In a few percentage of the cases, they said they'd like to correct some minor things," which were probably there in the first place, Redwine said. "In no case have we heard from anyone that there's a real problem."

"Currently it looks as though there probably was no damage done but we're sorry it happened," Redwine said. "We tried to do the responsible and fair thing. In the end it will work out okay, and we're very happy that we haven't had reports that people are upset."

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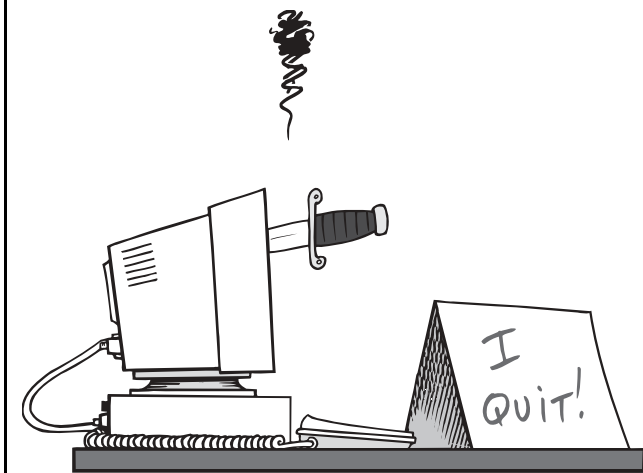
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# Proposal May Reduce Privacy

Tracking, from Page 1

agencies. The proposal, first reported by The Chronicle of Higher Education, is supported by the American Council on Education, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, and the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association, but opposed by other higher education organizations, like the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

A department overview of the proposal insisted that the data would not be shared with other agencies and that outsiders could not gain access. By law, the summary notes in capital letters, "Information about individuals may NEVER leave NCES," the National Center for Education Statistics.

But Jasmine L. Harris, legislative director at the U.S. Student Association, said that since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the balance between privacy and the public

interest had been shifting. "We're in a different time now, a very different climate," Harris said. "There's the huge possibility that the database could be misused, and there are no protections for student privacy."

She pointed to the National Directory of New Hires, a register of people who re-enter the work force, which began as an effort to track employment trends. Since its creation, however, the database has also been used to track parents who fail to pay child support or who owe the federal government non-tax debt, she said. "The door is wide open," Harris said.

Luke Swarthout, higher education associate at the State PIRGs for Higher Education, said his civic group, which has always monitored consumer issues and privacy rights, was of two minds about the plan. Improving the available data was important for Congress, policy makers and the public, who finance higher education through government loans and grants, Swarthout

said. "But any time you're compiling a list of millions and millions of students, as they go through college, move and have Social Security numbers, we get concerns from a privacy perspective."

For colleges and universities to hand over information on individual students, Congress would have to create an exemption to existing federal privacy laws, said Sarah Flanagan, vice president for government relations at the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

"The concept that you enter a federal registry by the act of enrolling in a college in this country is frightening to us," Flanagan said.

She said that officials from some states had already announced they would like to match the data against prison records. In states where such data is already collected from public universities, she added, there has been pressure to check the school data on students against housing records, driver's licenses and employment records.

# Rules on Reservations At Thirsty to Change

Thirsty from Page 1

improved by "trimming off some of the dead shifts and getting a model that's a little bit more flexible but should yield greater profits."

"I'm hoping that this event-based program will develop," Berlin said, "and I think the nice thing about it is that... everybody is interested in its success."

MIT and the Thirsty have been "trying to find the right mix of things that it can do" between on-campus events and catering, he said.

### Reservation fees restructured

Pollock said that the Thirsty will

also use a new method for determining the cost of reserving the pub, shifting from an hourly charge to a flat rate based on expected income from the event.

He said that the fixed rental fee would rise from 40 to 50 dollars, but that no charge would be added if the pub did at least 60 dollars of business an hour.

The earliest time an event may be scheduled has also changed to give first preference to student groups, Pollock said. Student groups will now be able to make a reservation as early as four months in advance, MIT departments two months in advance, and individuals one month in advance.

Solution to F Plus  
from page 6

E	M	M		M	A	C	K		S	P	O	R	E		
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SPORTS

Schmeckpeper Places 8th in National Meet

By Imran Hendley  
TEAM MEMBER

On November 20th, Ben A. Schmeckpeper '05 finished his MIT Cross Country career with an eighth place finish at the NCAA National Championships, hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Schmeckpeper, MIT's lone representative at the meet, tied the second highest finish by an MIT runner at nationals and earned his second cross country All America award.

After finishing 32nd and 38th his sophomore and junior years, Schmeckpeper came to au Claire confident in his ability to beat the best runners in the country. But for Schmeckpeper to win, he would have to defeat the defending champion, senior Josh Moen of Wartburg College in Iowa.

From the start Moen dictated the pace, and jumped to a small lead after the first mile mark. Schmeckpeper came through the first mile in 4:53 and found himself leading the chase pack. Over the

next two miles, Schmeckpeper ran in third place, attempting to close the gap between himself and the leaders, Moen and sophomore Macharia Yuot of Widener University.

After the three mile mark, however, the strain of chasing the leaders began to take its toll and Schmeckpeper fell back to tenth place.

As the field entered the final mile, Moen retained the lead, Yuot had began to fall back to the chase pack and places three through ten were tightly bunched. Moen would continue on to win by thirteen seconds, but Yuot fell back more than twenty places in the last kilometer, finishing in 24th place. Neal Holtschulte from William's College and Mike Sawicki from Otterbein College then proceeded to take Yuot's place up top.

With 1,000 meters left in the race Schmeckpeper had established himself in eighth place. Unable to kick any faster than his opponents, Schmeckpeper could not move up in the final half mile, finishing just one second behind fifth place.

Women's B-Ball Improves on '03

By Caitlin Murray  
STAFF WRITER

The MIT women's basketball team improved their record to 2-1 Tuesday with a 65-50 win over the Anna Maria Amcats.

Four Engineers reached the double digits for MIT: Christa M. Margossian '07, Karen A. Kinnaman '06, Kimberly Eri Soo Hoo '08, and Sharon M. Prange '07 scored a combined total of 54 points over the course of the game.

The Engineers took the lead immediately, beginning the game with a six point run from the tip-off. The Amcats managed to tie it up, but the Engineers regained control of the game and took a permanent lead on a three-pointer by Soo Hoo.

Shortly before the end of the half, the Engineers went on a 15-point run, building a 28-12 lead. The Amcats retaliated, scoring nine points while shutting out the Engineers. MIT quickly quashed this

recovery, allowing the Amcats just three points in the remaining five minutes to the Engineers twelve points, taking a 42-24 lead into halftime.

The Engineers relaxed their guard in the beginning of the second half, allowing the Amcats a run that cut MIT's lead down to ten, but yet again Soo Hoo came to the rescue with a three pointer, stopping the run and reviving the Engineers.

With six minutes left in the game, the Amcats trailed 59-48. At that point they seemed to concede the game, going the rest of the match without a field goal while the Engineers scored six points in as many minutes.

Soo Hoo, a five-foot freshman from California, baffled the Amcats despite their extra inches, racking up three 3-pointers, 11 points, three assists, and a steal, deftly controlling the game in her role as point guard.

Margossian also had a career night, putting 16 points on the board

and racking up 17 rebounds, four assists, and two steals.

Kinnaman was a thorn in the Amcats' side, with a steal, two blocks, and four defensive rebounds, racking up 15 points over the course of the game.

Prange, MIT's center, had a good game, grabbing ten rebounds, twelve points, and also shooting a 50 percent field goal percentage.

This victory brings the women's basketball team's all time record against Anna Maria up to 10-8. The Amcats were one of only three teams the Engineers managed to defeat last year.

The 2003-2004 season was disappointing for MIT, as they ended the season with their lowest conference record ever (0-13) and their worst overall record in 16 years, going 3-20 for the season.

The team hosts Wentworth Institute of Technology on Tuesday, against whom they lost last year 54-65 but have an all time record of 15-3.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, November 30

Varsity Men's Basketball vs. Tufts, Rockwell Cage, 7:30 p.m.

Age 7, 1982



Age 15, 1990



Age 18, 1993



Elizabeth Suto.

Killed by a drunk driver on February 27, 1994, on Bell Blvd. in Cedar Park, Texas.

If you don't stop your friend from driving drunk, who will? Do whatever it takes.

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.



U.S. Department of Transportation

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KENNETH YAN—THE TECH

Mikala P. Streeter '08 avoids a defender in the game against Anna Maria college last Tuesday. MIT defeated Anna Maria with a score of 65-50.

MIT Washington Summer Internship Program

Information Session

Wednesday, Dec. 1st  
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
8-302



MIT Undergraduates!

Apply your scientific and technical training to public policy issues. If you're selected to participate in this program you'll receive a paid policy internship in the offices of government agencies, the private sector and advocacy groups. Complementing the summer internship are a trip to DC during spring break and a 12 unit HASS seminar on policymaking that meets before and after the summer internship.

Past summer interns have worked in the White House Office of Science & Technology, the House of Representatives Science Committee, the US Department of Energy, the American Electronics Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, NASA, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the American Association for World Health, the American Enterprise Institute, the American Public Health Association, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Center for Democracy and Technology, the Congressional Research Service, the Brookings Institution, the Economic Policy Institute, the InterAmerican Development Bank, the World Bank Group, USAID, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Institutes of Health, the Climate Institute and the MIT Washington Office.

APPLICATION DEADLINE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 2005

For more information call 253-3649, send email to [iguanatw@mit.edu](mailto:iguanatw@mit.edu), or check out our web site at <http://web.mit.edu/summerwash/www/>

Free dinner on Sunday nights.



[join@tt.mit.edu](mailto:join@tt.mit.edu)  
W20-483  
617-253-1541